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CENTRAL FAX CENTER**JAN 08 2007****REMARKS**

Claims 1-7, 11-14, 16, 17, 20, 21, and 24-30 are pending in the present application with claims 1-3, 5, 12-14, 16, 20, and 21 amended, claims 8-10, 15, 18-19, and 22-23 cancelled, and claims 24-30 withdrawn. No new matter is added by these amendments

The office action objects to Claims 20-22 based on the wording of the preamble of these claims. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended incorporating the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The office action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to address this rejection and clarify that the program is stored on a computer readable recording medium. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Independent Claims

In the office action independent claims 1, 16, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over the Allegedly Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter AAPA) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 7-295814 to Koyama (hereinafter Koyama).

Claims 1, 16 and 20 have been amended to incorporate the features of claims 8, 9, and 10 as originally filed. Support for these amendments can be found for example in Figs. 12 and 13. In these amended claims, the phrase "first empty area" corresponds to one of the five empty (unused) areas shown as "adr_2" to "adr_5" illustrated in Fig. 13A. The phrase "second empty area" corresponds to the empty area composed of the setting area "adr_20" and subsequent data setting areas (i.e., adr_21, adr_22...), illustrated in Fig. 13A. An address of the first empty area is stored in a data setting area management table, as the "minimum address of each size of continuous empty areas," and address of the second

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empty area is stored in data setting area management table as "beginning address of allocations and release filed." (See Fig. 13B). Data adding is executed according to the process flow illustrated in Fig. 12, then the data setting area management table is referenced to determine the storing position (allocation destination) for data to be added (S55). The storing position is determined based on a size of data to be added (see Fig. 13C).

According the claims 1, 16, and 20, as amended, the address of the first and second empty area are stored in a data setting area management table, a single table, and an allocation controller refers to the addresses to determine a storing position. Therefore, the time necessary for searching for the empty to store data to be added is shortened.

It is respectfully submitted that the relied upon portions of the AAPA and Koyama fail to teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 16, and 20 described above. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1, 16, and 20 patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of the cited references and are allowable.

Dependent Claims

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama, and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,029,160 to Cabrera et al. (hereinafter Cabrera). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama in view of Cabrera, and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,787,442 to Hacherl et al. (hereinafter Hacherl). Claims 2, 5, 6, 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama, and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,502,836 to Hale et al. (hereinafter Hale). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of

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Koyama, and further in view of United States Patent No. 4,755,939 to Watson et al. (hereinafter Watson). Claims 8, 12, 18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama, and further in view of United States Patent No. 5,819,292 to Hitz et al. (hereinafter Hitz). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Koyama in view of Hitz, and further in view of Hacherl.

Each of these dependent claims depends from one of claims 1, 16, and 20, which are shown above to be allowable and therefore distinguish over the cited prior art references for at least the same reasons and are allowable therewith. Further, the relied upon portions of the additional references cited by the office action do not address the shortcomings of the AAPA or Koyama addressed above.

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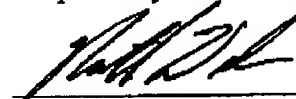
CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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